

Keeping our community COVID-Safe



Factsheet | Version 1.0 | 29 November 2021

Tasmania's high vaccination rates will help to keep people, businesses and communities safe.

Public Health will continue to respond to cases, monitor the health of cases, and trace people required to quarantine, to reduce the spread. There are things you can do to protect yourself and others:

- ✔ **be fully vaccinated if eligible.** This reduces the severity of illness, the chances of passing it on, and means as a close contact you will not need to quarantine for as long;
- ✔ **get tested if you develop any symptoms,** whether you are vaccinated or not; and
- ✔ if you are identified as a case, or close or casual contact **follow Public Health directions.**

Contact Tracing

Public Health will continue to identify people who come into contact with positive cases, while infectious in the community by:

- interviewing positive cases about where they've been and who they may have come into contact with while infectious; and
- working with workplaces and exposure sites, and using the Check in Tas App data to identify people who may have been at risk of exposure.

Contacts

Public Health identify people as close, casual and low-risk contacts, based on:

- how close they were to the case;
- the amount of exposure time;
- how infectious the case was;
- whether masks were worn;
- vaccination status; and
- the setting or location of exposure.

Caring for people with COVID-19

Due to our high vaccination status in Tasmania it is likely the majority of people will be able to manage their symptoms and recover from COVID-19 at home.

If you test positive to COVID-19, the Department of Health will contact you to discuss a care plan. This includes symptoms, medical conditions, home situation and support available.

There will be 24/7 health support for those with COVID-19, including daily health screening and additional clinical support if required. For more information see coronavirus.tas.gov.au/covidathome.

	Positive COVID-19 Case	Unvaccinated Close Contact	Vaccinated Close Contact	Casual Contact	Low-Risk Exposure
Quarantine or isolation requirements	Isolate for a minimum of 10 days, and potentially longer based on symptoms.	Quarantine for 14 days	Quarantine for 7 days	None	None
Testing Requirements	No further testing requirements, can leave after meeting the criteria for release from isolation.	Minimum 2 tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested immediately • Tested on day 12-13 • Can leave after 14 days and a negative test on day 12-13 	Minimum 3 tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested immediately • Tested on day 5-6 • Tested on day 12-13 • Can leave after 7 days and a negative test on day 5-6 	Minimum 1 test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested on day 3-5 • Test if symptoms develop 	None: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test if symptoms develop
Household isolation or quarantine requirements	Isolate in a suitable premises. If people are in the same house they become close contacts.	Unvaccinated people in the same household to follow the same quarantine requirements. Vaccinated people in the household avoid high risk settings for 14 days and may be required to wear a face mask	Unvaccinated people in the same household to follow the same quarantine requirements.	None	None
Other requirements	People with prolonged symptoms may need to isolate for longer periods of time.	None	From days 8 to 14 wear a mask if you can't physically distance, in the community or at work, do not enter high risk settings (except for essential reasons) and avoid contact with vulnerable people.	Wear a mask when unable to physically distance for 14 days from exposure.	None

Close Contacts

A **close contact** is someone who has had face to face contact with a case during their infectious period (generally 15 minutes or longer).

Examples of likely close contacts include:

- household contacts;
- social contacts who have extensive interaction; and
- workplace contacts, where COVID-safe behaviours have not been implemented, for example:
 - o vaccination status of parties;
 - o PPE has not been used appropriately;
 - o the setting heightens the risk i.e. small room or poor ventilation;
 - o the COVID-19 variant; and
 - o the nature of the exposure i.e. singing/shouting.

A close contact may also be someone working in a setting where there is known high risk of transmission, for example: abattoirs; hospitals; or accommodation facilities for vulnerable people.



Example:
A close contact would likely be someone you sat at the same table with at a restaurant, while they were infectious.

The length of time you will need to quarantine will depend on whether you are vaccinated or not.

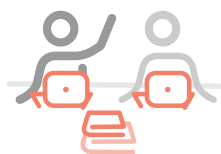
If you're vaccinated, you may only need to quarantine for seven days. If you're unvaccinated, you will need to complete 14 days of quarantine.

Testing requirements apply to all close contacts.

In some instances, you may be required to wear a mask or avoid visiting high-risk settings, after you leave quarantine.

Casual Contacts

A **casual contact** is a person who has been in the same location as a case during their infectious period, but did not have face to face contact with them.



Example:
A casual contact would likely be someone you sat near at a café, for a short amount of time, but did not have face to face contact with.

Low risk contact

A **low risk contact** is a person who has been in the same setting as a case during their infectious period, but the location or limited time they were exposed makes it unlikely the contact would develop COVID-19.



Example:
A low risk exposure would likely be considered a supermarket setting where you were shopping while a case was infectious, but did not have direct contact.

Low risk and casual contacts do not need to quarantine.

Casual contacts will be required to get tested at certain times, and all contacts should get tested if they develop symptoms.

For more information, contact the Public Health hotline on **1800 671 738** or visit **www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au**.